

on how we will make the best use of the time available, to ensure that every effort is made to secure widespread agreement among the parties on elections and the organisation of negotiations, and to allow us to come to a view on the question of a referendum. I would appeal to all parties to cooperate fully in that process.

These consultations are to be strictly time-limited. They will end on Wednesday 13 March. They will not be allowed to drag on inconclusively, and in so doing to threaten the timetable set out for the launch of negotiations. The existence of a deadline will focus the minds of participants.

After 13 March, the two Governments will immediately review their outcome. The British Government will bring forward legislation for an elective process, based on a judgement of what seems most broadly acceptable. Decisions will also be announced as appropriate on the other matters relating to the negotiating process which are to be addressed by the consultations. The two Governments are of the shared view that the parties must be given every opportunity to shape these matters in an agreed fashion, but ultimately we are prepared to make judgements and where appropriate to take the necessary decisions on the basis of what we have learned in the consultations.

In essence, we have mapped out a clear path to the negotiating table. This combination of steps offers to all parties a balanced and honourable way forward. It guarantees negotiations, and it also guarantees that those negotiations will be conducted on the basis of the principles of democracy and non-violence. There is no reason for any party to refuse to participate in negotiations. Equally, there is no reason for the IRA, through a refusal to restore its ceasefire, to deny Sinn Féin the possibility of full participation in political dialogue and entry into the negotiations on a basis of equality.

Negotiations are a necessary means to an essential end. We must never forget what it is that we seek to attain through them. It is important to remind ourselves of the ultimate prize we seek to gain.

Political violence could be eradicated forever through a draining of the swamp of inherited distrust and incomprehension. Through partnership in agreed institutions, unionism and nationalism could learn to respect one another and to work together for the common good. Nationalists could feel secure and valued within Northern Ireland; Unionists could feel secure and valued on the island of Ireland. We could achieve permanent agreement on the rules which would order our relationships, through matching and reciprocal guarantees which would transcend disputes about sovereignty. The last ghosts which haunt the relationship between Britain and Ireland would be laid to rest.

It is long past time that we began to work out together how to reach this destination. Now we know when negotiations will begin, and we must prepare ourselves for the task ahead. The Irish Government, working on the foundations and with the commitments of yesterday's communiqué, will approach that task with the utmost urgency and resolve.●

THE BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT'S COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to cosponsor S. 953, the Black Revolutionary War Patriot's Commemorative Coin Act. This legislation, sponsored by Senators CHAFEE and MOSELEY-BRAUN, would allow the

minting and sale of commemorative coins to finance the construction of a memorial in our Nation's Capital, honoring those African-Americans who fought for our Nation's independence.

Mr. President, our Nation owes those African-American patriots who fought in the American Revolution a deep debt of gratitude. All together, over 5,000 African-American men and women served as guides, spies, teamsters, and sailors in pursuit of a free nation. These African-Americans accounted for over 2½ percent of the total American force. They served with distinction and honor.

In this month, designated as Black History Month, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of the service African-Americans have given to this Nation's armed services. African-American service men and women have left an indelible mark upon our Nation's history.

In researching the role of African-Americans in the American Revolution, I was surprised to learn that many of those patriots who served were, indeed, slaves. How ironic it is that many of the patriots serving to found a nation based on the ideals of freedom were unable to enjoy this very freedom. We as a nation have struggled, and continue to struggle today, to ensure that all Americans can enjoy the fruits of living in a nation dedicated to democracy and freedom for all.

We have a long way to go to meet that ideal. It is my sincere hope that the construction of the memorial to be built from the proceeds of the sale of these commemorative coins, will inspire us to continue this fight for democracy and equality. We owe the patriots who fought in the American Revolution no less.●

TRIBUTE TO DIANE KASEMAN

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I am pleased to take the opportunity to acknowledge the 43 years of dedicated service of Diane Kaseman, upon her retirement. A native of Rochester, NY, Diane began her distinguished career on March 27, 1953. Diane began her tenure here on Capitol Hill as a receptionist for Representative Kenneth Keating. She then moved to the Senate and worked for Senator John Sherman Cooper and has since served under the administrations of 11 separate Senate Sergeants at Arms, where she has worked with the service and computer facilities staff of the U.S. Senate.

Diane's accomplishments have not been limited to her professional career, as she has endlessly devoted herself to volunteer activities benefiting not only her colleagues, but also many charitable organizations. In 1953, Diane actively sought and obtained approval from the Senate Rules Committee for the establishment of the Senate Staff Club. Founded in 1954 with 150 members as a social organization for all Senate employees, the club has sponsored a variety of social, civic, and charitable ac-

tivities. Under the capable and dynamic leadership of Diane, the club's first treasurer, the Staff Club has grown to over 3,000 members.

The organization has been responsible for a number of variety shows, dances, and dinners, however, an integral part of the club has been charitable activities. Diane Kaseman has been instrumental in the success of these efforts. In 1955 Diane helped to form a Senate hospitalization plan, which is still active under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Senate. The Staff Club was asked by the Red Cross to become part of its blood donor drive in 1978 and has continued this support. Diane has been a driving force behind this noteworthy campaign and has dedicated many hours of hard work to ensure that the Senate blood drive meets its goal. As a result of her efforts, the Senate Staff Club has received four Outstanding Merit Awards for its contributions.

Diane won the 22d Annual Roll Call Congressional Staff Award in 1953 as one of the founders of the Senate Staff Club. In 1981, Diane Kaseman received the Sid Yudin Award in recognition of "her dedication to the well-being of her coworkers and for the generous expenditure of her time, talent, and personal resources in the service of the congressional community." Diane was also commended by U.S. Capitol Chief of Police James M. Powell for her unending assistance and patience during a special 5-week assignment in 1984 with the U.S. Capitol Police in establishing a system for providing security badges for all employees of the Senate.

Diane's contributions have been vast and effectual. She enjoys volunteering her time and special talents in helping others and has contributed to the Red Cross, Children's Hospital, Walter Reed Hospital, Saint Joseph's food drive, Hungary relief, Mexico's earthquake relief, and Help for Retarded Children, among others.

As U.S. Senator from New York, I am particularly pleased to congratulate Diane Kaseman for her outstanding contributions and dedicated service of the past 43 years and wish Diane continued success in all her future endeavors.●

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH REAUTHORIZATION ACT

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask that the tape of S. 1582, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Missing Children's Assistance Act, introduced by myself and Senator SIMON on Thursday, February 29, be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the bill follows:

S. 1582

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Runaway and Homeless Youth Reauthorization Act of 1996".